



Lt. Governor Skillman: Jobs Remain Indiana's Priority

We're approaching a new year that will be full of new initiatives and new challenges for the State of Indiana. But while the calendar changes, Gov. Daniels and my priorities remain the same: increased economic opportunities for Hoosiers. Over the past two weeks, I've brought that message to several business audiences around Central Indiana.

In these last two weeks, I've spoken at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, the kickoff celebration of Indianapolis' new West Side Chamber of Commerce, and the 75th Anniversary Gala of the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce. I also had the opportunity to break ground on the new Dallara facility, which will hire 80 workers in Speedway to build chassis for Indy cars.

At the Indiana Chamber dinner, as well as the 75th anniversary celebration, I was reminded of the tradition and longevity of our business community. At the other end of the spectrum, the kickoff of the West Side Chamber proved Indiana companies and community leaders continue to work together to find new ways to advance.



Lt. Gov. Skillman addresses the crowd at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce 21st Annual Awards Dinner

At all the events, I shared some success we have seen in Indiana despite the national recession. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows Indiana's job growth at 2.4 percent. That's three times the national average. Business leaders like those involved in various Chamber of Commerce organizations created 7 percent of the country's job growth, even though we only have 2 percent of the population.

At the state government level, we cannot create those jobs, but we have done our best to allow the private sector to do so. Our job is to keep taxes low and have a

friendly hand extended to businesses, big and small. That includes creating a good environment for you and your families, which we will attempt to do again in the 2011 legislative session. Our focus this next year will be on taxpayer protection and adopting a responsible budget free of a tax increase. We'll also focus on education and putting our students first.

The Dallara celebration reinforced my belief that Indiana is doing the things it should be doing to foster an environment of job creation. In addition to help from the Town of Speedway and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, which I oversee, also played an instrumental role in securing this investment. Dallara is a gateway company that we believe will open doors for more investment in Central Indiana.

So as we enter this new year with new challenges, remember that our priorities of jobs and economic recovery will stay the same.



Lt. Governor Skillman oversees the Indiana Department of Agriculture, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, the Office of Energy Development, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, and the Office of Tourism Development. For more, visit her on the web at www.lg.in.gov.